1906MNRAS..66S.174.

good use of the many opportunities of acquiring knowledge which he enjoyed throughout his life. Even during the last few years he tried to forget his sufferings by taking up the study of Persian, and was delighted to be able to read Omar Khayyam in the original language. His character was open, sincere, and generous, he was always anxious to befriend and help anybody whenever he could, and he never shirked any trouble or work to answer inquiries even from people who had no claim on his time. He will be remembered with warm affection by all who had more than a passing acquaintance with him.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on the 9th of January 1874.

[The Council are indebted to Dr. J. L. E. Dreyer for the above obituary.]

John Dansken was born at Glasgow in 1836, and educated at the Athenæum and Glasgow University. His profession, in which he became well known, was that of a surveyor; in later life he took a considerable share in public affairs, and was placed on the Commission of the Peace for Lanarkshire. He was an enthusiastic amateur astronomer, and built for himself an excellent private observatory containing a 13-inch reflector, several refractors, and a transit instrument. He also formed a valuable collection of astronomical books.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1892, and died suddenly on the 1st of November 1905.

Adam Storey Farrar was born in London in 1826, and educated at Oxford, taking his degree in 1850. At Oxford he won the Arnold prize for history in 1851 and Denyer's theological prize, and was elected to a Fellowship at Queen's College, which he held from 1852 to 1863, holding also a Tutorship at Wadham College for some years. In 1862 he was Bampton Lecturer. In 1863 he married, and shortly afterwards accepted the Professorship of Divinity and Ecclesiastical History in the University of Durham, which he held for forty years. He became a Canon Residentiary of Durham in 1878, and in 1902 was elected to an honorary Fellowship at his old Oxford college.

Astronomy formed but one of many interests which he kept up with undiminishing zeal until his death. It is doubtful if he ever used a telescope, but he was very keen for any observation that could be made with the naked eye. He was moreover an enterprising and critical reader of astronomical works, new and old, and delighted to beguile his leisure by posing his friends with many a crooked question.

He was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1858, and died on the 11th of June 1905.

Edmund Beckett, first Baron Grimthorpe and fifth Baronet, was born at Carlton Hall, near Newark, on the 12th of May 1816. He was the eldest son of Mr. Edmund Beckett, M.P. for

1906MNRAS..66S.174.

the West Riding of Yorkshire, who in 1816 had assumed the name of Denison, but reverted to that of Beckett on succeeding to the Baronetcy in 1872. In like manner the subject of this notice, who had the assumed name of Denison, returned to that of Beckett on succeeding to the Baronetcy in 1874. In 1886 he was raised to the Peerage as Baron Grimthorpe with special remainder, in default of male issue, to the heirs male of his father.

Mr. Beckett Denison was educated at Doncaster, Eton, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated as 30th Wrangler in the Tripos of 1838. He did not, however, make his mark at the University.

He was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn in 1841 and joined the Parliamentary Bar, where he practised until 1881. In 1854 he was made Q.C., and in 1877 was appointed Chancellor and Vicar-General of York Diocese and Province.

In his legal career he had a practice rarely equalled, and his income at the Parliamentary Bar for many years was very large. Few men knew more of ecclesiastical law. He was endued with courage and great self-confidence, with a tenacious memory which enabled him to recall the evidence given by a witness years before; and he was merciless in exposing inconsistency.

In 1866 Mr. Beckett Denison published the well-known work *Astronomy without Mathematics*, a singularly lucid and vigorous elementary treatise on the principles of the science, which has passed through many editions.

Of greater importance was his delightful treatise on *Clocks, Watches, and Bells*, which has become a recognised text-book in the watchmaking trade. In this book he is "a clear exponent of other men's work; he suggests improvements and points to future discoveries, and the work breathes the spirit of a man who had touched with his own hands all that he describes." When President of the Horological Society none of its members knew more than he did of the construction of clocks and watches. He was responsible for the design of the Big Ben clock at Westminster, and the credit for that remarkable clock undoubtedly belongs to him.

Lord Grimthorpe strayed into many paths, and all he did was stamped with originality. He was an authority on architectural questions and wrote a book on *Building, Civil and Ecclesiastical*, and there was not a better locksmith in England.

He was a prolific writer and controversialist. His style, though infelicitous and occasionally somewhat involved, was vigorous, caustic, and racy.

He directed the renovation of St. Albans Cathedral, and expended out of his own pocket over 100,000*l.* in its restoration. Besides this he gave munificent assistance towards the restoration of many churches, parsonages, and schools in the country.

In 1845 he married a daughter of the late Bishop Lonsdale, who died in 1901, leaving no issue.

Lord Grimthorpe was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astro-

1906MNRAS..66S.174.

nomical Society on the 9th of November 1866, and he served on the Council in 1870–3, 1875, and 1878–80.

He latterly lived in retirement at his residence, Batch Wood, St. Albans, where he died on the 29th of April 1905, in his 89th year.

The Rev. SAMUEL JENKINS JOHNSON was the only son of the Rev. S. Johnson, and was born on the 14th of March 1845 at Atherton, in Lancashire, being descended from an old Lancashire family. He early showed a great love for astronomy, and when no more than nine years old began to collect such mentions of celestial phenomena as he could find in the Greek and Latin classics. His great delight at school was to gather his playfellows in a corner of the playground and give them a lecture on astronomy. He decided to take orders, and with this view he matriculated at St. John's College, Oxford, where he remained for three years, when he took his degree. He was ordained deacon in 1868, and priest in 1869; in 1868 he was licensed to the curacy of West Houghton, Lancashire, and to that of Lytham in 1870. At the end of the latter year he became vicar of Upton Helions, Devon, the church of which he entirely restored. In 1879 he married Miss Mary Drew, and migrated to Abbenhall, Gloucester, where he spent a year in restoring the church; and finally, in 1882, settled at Melplash, Bridport, where the remainder of his life was spent.

Mr. Johnson was elected a Fellow of this Society on the 8th of March 1872, and between that time and the year of his death contributed no fewer than thirty-seven papers to the *Monthly Notices.* These are mostly short notes on ancient and future eclipses, or on his observations of eclipses, transits, occultations, &c. In *Monthly Notices*, vol. liv. p. 142, he published a note on the influence of the full Moon on the weather. His records, kept for fifteen years, appeared to show that there is no ground for the view held by Sir John Herschel, Humboldt, &c., that the full Moon has some effect in dissipating clouds. In 1887 he presented to the Society a large manuscript volume containing particulars of all eclipses visible in England from A.D. 538 to 2500. In 1869 he published a small work, *Eclipses and Transits in Future Years*; he was also the author of *Eclipses Past and Future* (1874) and *Historical and Future Eclipses* (1896). In 1882 he went to Marseilles to observe the transit of *Mercury* of the 6th of December; and in 1900 made a journey to Navalmoral, in Spain, where he successfully observed the total solar eclipse of the 28th of May. He published his observations, with a sketch of the corona, in *Monthly Notices*, vol. lx. p. 590.

Mr. Johnson suffered from gout, and had been for some time failing in health; this became more marked after the death of his wife in 1904. Though scarcely fit for the journey he went to Burgos, where he was successful in observing the total solar eclipse